

FWP Commission Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: November 9, 2010 (conference call)

Agenda Item: Pine Grove Pond Fishing Access Site Acquisition (formerly referred to as Street Pond)

Action Needed: Final Approval

Time Needed on Agenda: 5 minutes

Background:

The landowner, Robin Street, has offered the sale and donation of a 5-acre pond and associated lands in a 12.9 acre parcel to FWP for use as a Family Fishing Pond. The pond lies about 2 miles north of Kalispell along the Whitefish River. The pond was excavated to both slope and depth in accordance with specifications provided by FWP's Design and Construction Section. The landowner has completed most of the site developments including an access road, parking lot, vault latrine, revegetation, perimeter fencing and access road. In addition to the landowners own resources, the cost of development has been supplemented with funding from the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Flathead Electric Roundup for Safety, Flathead Valley Community College and others. The landowner has indicated that he intends to use any balance left in the site development funds to open an operation and maintenance account for use at this site.

The parcel is valued at \$180,000 or more with site developments. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust is providing \$20,000 towards the acquisition of the pond, and the balance of the value will be donated by the landowner.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

A Draft Environmental Assessment was released for public review on September 27, 2010. The public comment period concluded October 27, 2010. Nine written comments were received, all of which were very supportive of this proposal. This project has been highly visible in the Flathead Valley. The project has been discussed in several public forums including the Kalispell Regional Office Citizens Advisory Council, The Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium and the Flathead County Parks Board Chambers.

Alternatives and Analysis:

No Action – Do not accept the donation: The parcel would then be donated to another group and may or may not offer the same amount of public use and access. The parcel could go to private ownership as it is a desirable design and location.

Accept the Pine Grove Pond Donation – Similar ponds in the Flathead have shown high amounts of public use. These ponds are also used for the Hooked On Fishing school program. This area is slated for high residential development.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

Accept the donation. This is a prime opportunity to acquire a high value development close to Kalispell and in an area of future population growth.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Department accept the donation of the Pine Grove Pond parcel from Robin Street.